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# Elusive 'wild man' in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (AP) — "He feeds on raw meat and wears a reindeer skin. He cannot speak, but only utters shrill screams." At least that's what Tass says of the Soviet version of Sasquatch.

It quoted Soviet researchers as saying Siberia may have its own shaggy wild man resembling legendary creatures of the Himalayas and the American Northwest.

But apparently he hasn't been seen since the 1950s.

Specialists at the Institute of Language, Literature and History in Soviet Yakutia have been evaluating testimony of Siberians who claim in years past to have encountered the manlike creature the call "Chuchunaa," Tass, the Soviet news agency, reported.

Chuchunaa means "outcast" in one dialect of Yakutia, a vast expanse of forest, mountains and tundra in northeastern Siberia. He is said to resemble the yeti or Abominable Snowman of central Asia's lofty Himalaya range and the Sasquatch or Bigfoot of Washington and Oregon.

Tass said the fact that there has not been a reliable sighting of the Siberian wild man for two decades "leads some scientists to the thought that the last Chuchunaa has died out. But might he have re-

treated still deeper into the (forest) to a point which is not reached even by hunters and geologists?"

Tass quoted a senior staff member of the Yakutia Institute, Semyon Nikolaev, as saying descriptions from those who claim to have seen Chuchunaa display remarkable similarity.

Witnesses describe the Siberian creature as thin, standing about 6 feet 6 inches tall, with long arms hanging below his knees, Tass reported. He was said to have shaggy hair, a "face as big as a human being, only very dark," and a small protruding forehead.

The creature was in the habit of sneaking up to human habitations and stealing food, Tass said. Upon seeing a hunter or reindeer breeder, he would run away in most instances, but occasionally would fight.

Nikolaev was quoted as saying Chuchunaa might be an ancient inhabitant of Yakutia, forced by immigration of other aboriginal groups to seek refuge in relatively inaccessible territory.

Some scientists believe that if the yeti exists, he may be some kind of unclassified ape. Sasquatch has been described by people who claim to have seen him as looking like a bear or an ape.